

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4201

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 4989

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, YO

SUBJ: FAVORABLE REACTION TO TITO'S VISIT TO U.S. EXHIBIT

REF : ZAGREB 780

1. AMPLE MEDIA COVERAGE OF PRESIDENT TITO'S VISIT TO ZAGREB FALL FAIR INCLUDED PROMINENT PLAY OF HIS TOUR CONDUCTED BY AMBASSADOR OF THE U.S. EXHIBIT. RADIO BROADCASTS IN BELGRADE AND ZAGREB AFTERNOON AND EVENING SEPTEMBER 17 FREQUENTLY MENTIONED U.S. EXHIBIT AND THEME "PHOTOGRAPHY USA." NATIONWIDE EVENING TELEVISION COVERAGE SHOWED AMBASSADOR GUIDING TITO AND LARGE ENTOURAGE THROUGH U.S. PAVILION.

2. COVERAGE IN DAILY PRESS FOLLOWING DAY (SEPTEMBER 18) ALSO GOOD. ALL ZAGREB PAPERS RAN PAGE-WIDE PHOTOGRAPH OF TITO INSPECTING U.S. EXHIBIT. THOUGH SOME PAPERS FAILED TO MENTION U.S. EXHIBIT IN CAPTION, THERE WAS NO DOUBT FROM INCLUSION OF AMBASSADOR IN PHOTOGRAPH AS TO WHICH EXHIBIT HAD CAPTURED PRESIDENT'S ATTENTION. CERTAIN PAPERS FOR BALANCE ALSO PUBLISHED PHOTO OF INTERIOR OF SOVIET PAVILION.

3. SOME FAVORABLE POLITICAL OMENS FOR US-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS ARE BEING DRAWN LOCALLY FROM THE FACT THAT TITO VISITED U.S. EXHIBIT IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS ONLY STOP AT A YUGOSLAV PAVILION AND BEFORE HE GLANCED THROUGH PAVILIONS OF OTHER COUNTRIES. TANJUG AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OTHER PRESS ALSO POINTED OUT (WITHOUT COMMENT) THAT "PHOTOGRAPHY

USA" WAS TITO'S FIRST STOP AFTER YUGOSLAV PAVILION. IT IS
POSSIBLE THAT ORDER OF VISITS WAS SCHEDULED FOR TITO'S CONVENIENCE:
U.S. EXHIBIT IS THE CLOSEST FOREIGN DISPLAY TO THE YUGOSLAV
PAVILION VISITED BY THE PRESIDENT. THE FACT REMAINS THAT HIGH
DIGNITARIES, INCLUDING TITO USUALLY BREEZE THROUGH THE EXHIBIT
AREA BUT HE--WHETHER BECAUSE OF HIS INTEREST IN PHOTOGRAPHY OR
OTHER MOTIVES--LINGERED IN THE U.S. EXHIBIT FOR TEN MINUTES.
NO ONE REMEMBERS THAT TITO HAS DISPLAYED SUCH INTEREST IN
ANY PREVIOUS FOREIGN EXHIBIT AT THE ZAGREB FAIR.

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